

Direct Action

For workers' direct control of industry

no. 2

5p

PAPER OF THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION (IWMA)

Homeless AND

STOP THE SPECULATORS !

JOBLESS

The number of homeless, both single people and families is rapidly increasing in Britain. Meanwhile hundreds of thousands of houses both new and old, lie empty throughout the country while GOVERNMENT ministers and the building societies squabble over the financing of mortgages. The situation is not helped by the presence of huge new empty office blocks in nearly every major town in the country. Most local authorities are building fewer and fewer council houses each year, whilst allowing inner-city terrace type housing to be pulled down in order to make way for more profit making office blocks.

Property developers stop at nothing to impose their glass and concrete monstrosities on our city centres at the expense of peoples homes. A suitable amount of money will bring a property development company's plans to the front of a council planning committee and a donation to an organisation like 'Shelter' will get rid of squatters who are holding up demolition work.

Squatting is becoming more and more a permanent feature of inner city life. Often it has been forced on people who were sub-tenants or rented furnished rooms in properties which have been demolished to make way for office and shop development, and were not rehoused but merely dumped on the end of an already thousands strong waiting list of homeless and badly housed people.

In inner London alone there are over 10,000 people who have been forced to squat as have thousands more in every major urban centre throughout the country.

British Leyland is now pulling out another stop in its, obviously planned attempt to reduce its workforce to the American condition, i.e. well paid slavery.

In the early part of this year, after much protracted negotiation with the unions involved. British Leyland was successful in introducing a flat rate system of payment into its Cowley plant. At first sight this would have seemed to be an improvement, from the workers point of view, on the old piece rate system. However the Cowley management very quickly disabused this idea. They introduced "Time and Motion Engineers", the idea being that every twitch of a finger, toe or elbow should be directed towards company profit.

Cont. on page 4.



"We Conservatives have always believed in home ownership — I personally own over a hundred and fifty!"

Cont. on page 8

nature



THRU SYNDICALIST GLASSES

Theres a lot of fallen idols from 'high' places shattering the illusions of many of our more humble brethren to be seen these days. Corruption, deception, chicanery are seen to be the order of the day among our 'superior' castes, the lords, the politicians, tycoons and trade union 'leaders'. Space would not permit to mention particular individuals in a cursory kind of way let alone a detailed kind. It is also not the purpose of this writer to mud sling at individuals within the above mentioned clique. Where the hell could I find enough mud? So let me suffice to say that the behaviour of these people is to a greater or lesser degree the inevitable outcome of their economic and social position. The aforementioned clique live off the backs of the working class by some means or another. The landlords by rent, the bankers by interest, business tycoons by profit, the politicians by taxation and probably an admixture of rent, interest and profit the trade union top brass have relatively large salaries through invested capital and perhaps a supplemented income through writing for the press or similar exploits. Their income puts them in another class. The sincerity of many trade union leaders cannot be denied in the earlier part of their careers. Eventually however, they become conditioned by the economic forces of capital and the corrupting influence of capitalist state machinery.

And within this motley crew competition is becoming more intense with the result that a fair number of them are violating their own class morality. It seems in order to 'con' the working class but not to commit the eleventh commandment of being found out deceiving your own 'well-to-do' class.

The working class should awaken to realise that there would be no fallen idols if they the workers had not built up these idols themselves. Of course the working class are also influenced and conditioned by their own objective economic and social environment and the subjective influences of the poisonous propaganda served out by the apologists of our sick ridden society. It is therefore clear that before they can be shown that their idols have feet of clay they will have to understand their own environment and the causes of their conditioning.

In the past man did not understand the forces of nature and so he attributed supernatural powers to them, the rain, thunder, storms, the sun and a host of other things were beyond his comprehension. With the aid of tools and science man finally mastered these natural forces and in understanding them he was freed from their bondage. But as yet he has not mastered the forces of his own creation, he does not therefore understand them. In our present society man produces goods for sale and in his sex life produces offsprings by design or accident. It is important what we produce but much more important how we produce and in what set of circumstances, what sort of economic and social relations prevail during the course of production. In the evolutionary process of human society the idea of possession of property germinated without realising the consequences. Side by side of the idea of possession of things grew the idea of possession of a sex partner. Because of the division of labour being in man's favour at a certain stage of historical development (man being the forager for food, the woman being domesticated in the household) man was able to insist on the woman being strictly a 'one man girl'. This was to ascertain that property would be transmitted to his exclusive offspring. So a code of morality was imposed upon the woman for economic reasons. Hence we had the embryo of our legalised property based form of marriage.

family

The form of the family has undergone several changes influenced by possession culminating in the compulsive monogamous family of our own day with the father being the official recognised head. We find then that in the production of commodities for sale in our present day society the mass of the people have to sell their labour power to live. But they produce more than what can sustain them. This surplus which is produced is usurped by the owners of the means of production who have acquired by one means or another the 'right' to exploit. The social relations emanating from such circumstances are therefore when all boiled down that of master and slave class. In the course of production of human beings it is compulsive morality which exercises an influence, an influence which is adverse to a healthy attitude of mind. One is subjected to thinking in terms of loving only within the confines of 'official' wedlock. Sex must be negated commands convention until wedlock is sanctioned. Cont, page

This year Britain will be exporting £405,000,000 worth of arms, £40,000,000 more than last year. You may find somethings in short supply because of the Tories three day week during the 'power crisis'. However, the tanks kept rolling off the production lines, the armaments industry was specially exempted from the power restrictions.



SELLING DEATH

The Politics of Morality and the

Morality of Politics . . .

The blacking of work on arms for the Chilean Junta, which has been called by the A.U.E.W. was a welcome step in the right direction. However, this raises the whole question of just how far British Capitalism is involved in the bloody arms trade.

The current campaign is directed against the fascist dictators in Chile, but the arms Barons are making fat profits from other military dictators.

While Britain doesn't match up to the two super powers U.S.A. and Russia but only comes fourth after France, thousands of millions of pounds are made every year in the booming arms trade. Exhibitions for foreign arms buyers are laid on by the British Government through the Defence Sales Organisation which employs more than 200 civil servants. It has been in existence for seven years, when the organisation was set up Britain's arms sales were 'only' around £100,000,000 a year which is mere chicken feed.

FRANCE

France, has moved quickly to capture a large slice of the arms market, signing two deals recently selling Mirage fighter-bombers, ground-to-air missiles and tanks to Saudi Arabia, and Mirage interceptors to Abu Dhabi. A further deal is thought to have been negotiated with Kuwait.

Meanwhile, on the 11th, January, a \$900 million deal for 30 advanced F14A fighter aircraft was announced between Iran and the U.S. The British Aircraft Corporation has also announced a contract with Iran to supply equipment to strengthen their Rapier anti-aircraft guided missile system.

Britain faces intensive competition from the French, and other countries. De Gaulle, encouraged the French armaments firms to supply almost anyone who could pay, and their arms sales trebled in four years. Last year, arms accounted for one twelfth of France's exports, earning them the equivalent of £1,000,000,000.

Russia and the U.S.A. sell arms at rock-bottom prices. They usually make their money later on spare parts. The arms dealers are sometimes undercut. The Nigerians have been hawking 50,000,000, rounds of ammunition at half the price asked by Iron Curtain countries. The ammunition was sold by Britain during the Biafran war. Millions of these rounds have been sold to the IRA at bargain prices.

As these figures show, the arms business is very profitable and British Capitalism is in it up to the neck.

CAPITALISM

Capitalism is a system which thrives on wars and rumours of wars. War keeps the workers in full employment and usually puts an end to slumps. It is easy to have factories working flat out, if your product is waste and destruction.

However, if it is something useful you are producing, the market must reach a saturation point, but with armaments there are no end to the clients.

The workers as a class take over industry to produce things for the satisfaction of our needs rather than things which are harmful to our very existence.

The bosses will not be beaten on the battle-field, but at the place of work and in the community.



CA' CANNY

The clever, clever men of the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries have been hoist with their own petard by the canny draylads of Newcastle.

Six years ago, Newcastle Breweries as it was then, decided to change over from road to rail delivery in their southern sales area.

To placate the union the Newcastle management offered to give half the delivery savings as a bonus to the remaining Draymen.

From an initial few thousand pound this bonus has grown to an annual figure of 120 thousand pounds, and now the company are trying to wriggle out of the agreement.

They tried several types of bribery, cash-in-hand, life insurance, pension, shares in the brewery and lo and behold

TAKE OVER THE FACTORIES !

The sit-in at the Meriden N.V.T. motor-cycle factory would seem to be on the point of being resolved by the usual method of the government throwing another million or five of public money to set up the Meriden workers in competition with their fellow workers at Worcester and Bromsgrove.

Meanwhile Mr. Dennis not so Poore is more concerned over the value of the factory premises and completed cycles at Meriden. Capitalism has its contradictions, but to witness a government agency paying up for property which they had bought in the first place.

LITERATURE

Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution by G.P. Maximoff How Labour Governed 1945-1951

Lenin and Workers Control 22p.

The Hungarian Workers Revolution 5p.

The pamphlet "Workers Control" is being reprinted.

Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism by R. Rocker 20p.

A.B.C. of Anarchism by A. Berkman 25p.

Floodgates of Anarchy Christie & Meltzer 35p.

Franco's Prisoner M. Garcia. £2.25.

My Social Credo G.P. Maximoff 20p.

Revolutionary Government Kropotkin 5p.

Anarchism in the May Movement in France. 6p.

Postage extra.

the ownership of a number of public houses.

The canny draylads of Newcastle decided to take the company up on this last offer and selected the best three houses in Newcastle's west end. The Newcastle bosses right away back tracked and offered instead a perm list of any three from twelve beer houses, all of them of course in declining areas.

Despite the fact that the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries themselves save a pound for every one that they have to pay to the Newcastle draymen, they are still trying to diddle the lads... another example of how the profit system is alright for the bosses but not for the lads.

TYRED OUT?

► DUNLOP

Now that wage increases are geared to the rate of inflation, increasing prominence will be given to the more important areas of struggle. At the moment the main fight would seem to be for the reduction of the working week.

Liverpool, leading again as so often in the past has its Ford motor plant work force for the 11th consecutive Friday boycotting the final shift. Dunlop process workers at the Speke industrial estate have actually refused a pay bonus in preference toward a shorter working week and have themselves not only stopped coming in on a Friday night shift but have induced two Scottish Dunlop plants to support them.

We would hope that this tendency will increase, workers are concerned over the quality of life, short term disputes over wages are forced upon us by the system that we have to accept at the moment.

Cont., from page one.

When the outraged work-force voted with their feet on this imposition British Leyland management changed over to the usual capitalist diversions methods of setting Jack against Bill. Taking advantage of a localised dispute between transport staff and management, they introduced the red-herring of revolutionary-militants. When, after a fairly comprehensive inquiry the management's allegations have been disproved, they have moved to a new theme.

The new message is, that with a reduction in world markets the British Leyland worker must be prepared to make sacrifices not the management or stockholders of course. But if the work-force were prepared to accept redundancies, new work methods, time and motion, things might right themselves again for the management and shareholders.

It would seem to be true that there is going to be a recession in the light motor section of the car industry. It is certainly true that over the last twenty years that car workers have contributed a great deal to the general prosperity, at the expense of quality of life itself. As with the miners no amount of money can compensate for the soul-destroying monotony which is endemic to the car industry and which has far reaching consequences in family and social life. For what? profit.

health in jeopardy

"They can compel the introduction of safety appliances of ventilation systems, and save in that way thousands of lives every year. If they have the power to bring that about by direct action, they have the power to reduce their hours, they have the power to increase or at least to better the labouring conditions round the mines and have better houses."

Big Bill Haywood.
Speaking in court on the miners.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Health and Safety at Work Bill is now on its way through Parliament. The idea of this Bill is to lump together all work hazards, wherever they occur, under one single legislation, one administration and inspectorate.

Thus the Factories Act, the Mines and Quarries Act and other safety legislation dealing with particular industries will all be repealed in due course and replaced by more generalised legislation covering not only industrial but all types of employment including those at present not covered by safety laws.

While welcoming new legislation for areas not already covered, a critical look at the Bill shows its standard to be far below that of the Factories Act 1961 and the Mines and Quarries Act 1954.

In the Factories Act the employer has an absolute duty even if it meant stopping production or making the use of a machine impossible.

In the Mines and Quarries Act, allowance being made for unpreventable hazards of nature, compliance with the Act is where practicable which in law means physically possible.

The New Bill revives the 'reasonably practicable' standard, what this means in legal terms is that when employers are considering what is 'reasonably practicable' they can weigh up the cost in cash and production terms, of a safety precaution and balance it against the risk to life and limb of not taking the precaution.

This standard was removed from the Mines and Quarries Act in 1954 after a determined fight by miners M.P.'s.

Another loophole in the new Bill is Clause 41. Under the Factories Act proof of the offence means somebody is guilty, no excuses available. Under the Mines and Quarries Act proof of the offence leads to conviction unless the employers can prove it was not physically practicable to prevent the breach.

These tight provisions are completely lost under Clause 41.— "It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under any of the relevant statutory provisions to prove that he exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or any person under his control."

This presents a massive loophole through the criminal enforcement of the safety codes in industry.

Trade unionists, especially miners and engineers, should be aware of this gerrymandering of these vital safety rules. After all, safety at work is only a basic human right.

These rights don't come easy and any erosion should be strongly resisted, your life may depend upon it.



UNFREE STATE

Early in April, Dublin Special Branch, in one fell swoop, rounded up most of the known libertarians in the Dublin area. The charges include causing explosions at the Spanish Cultural Institute, Iberia Airways and various finance houses. Also armed robbery at Allied Irish Bank and from Contract Cleaners and as is usual, a whole battery of conspiracy charges, it would seem these comrades are being used as scapegoats to unload a lot of their unsolved crimes onto.

Charges up to date are; Bob Cullen 20 charges, Noel Murray 16 charges, Des Keane 16 charges, Columba Longmore 9 charges, Eddie Jones 1 charge, Marie McPhillips 9 charges. Charges against Pat Stephens appear to have been dropped, bringing the total to 70 charges.

The people arrested were active in various things, the New Earth group and Peoples Democracy, two of them were previously unknown to the rest before they were arrested. The accused have since been held in military custody at Curragh army camp, they have the dubious distinction of being the first people in the "Free" (sic) State to be held in military custody.

The Curragh is a military fortress surrounded by barbed wire and manned machine gun posts. Its location is somewhat remote and although remain prisoners are entitled to one visit a day this is extremely difficult thus prohibiting the organisation of a proper defense.

The trial itself will be sometime after July 8th, this will be highly controversial. Under the recent emergency acts the need for inconvenient jury trials has been dispensed with, in its place is a panel of three judges, with a kangaroo set up like this it should be fairly straightforward to frame up are comrades, whoever heard of a neutral unbiased judge.

They have already produced their books of evidence containing statements from 93 witnesses and 144 exhibits, some of the charges go back as far as 1972, one interesting piece of evidence is an album of photographs of the cell where Columba was first held, it was covered with anarchist slogans.

Ed Jones is being held in military custody on a conspiracy charge simply because his passport was found in maries flat.



BLACK FLAG...organ of the Anarchist Black Cross. 10p. -3p. for a sample from: Black Flag, 3a. Haverstock Hill, London. N.W.3.

The comrades in the Curragh have stated they have no need of any money in the meantime, but they would welcome letters of solidarity (though mail is being intercepted) the address:

The Detention Centre,
Curragh Military Camp,
County Kildare,
Eire.

Picketing of the Irish Embassy will be carried out when the trial opens.

Protests could be sent to the Irish Embassy, the two main Points,

1) Detention in Military Custody.

2) Trial without jury.

Send to the Irish Embassy,
17, Grosvenor Place,
London. S.W.1.

J.P.



NURSES

Nurses joint action groups have made plans for a day of action throughout the country on July 8th.

These actions will vary from hospital to hospital according to their local circumstances.

Mental hospitals will probably have a one day stoppage while ordinary hospitals a two or three hour walk out. Also included are work to rules and a ban on private patients (permanently we hope) with demonstrations and marches.

The action groups have official support, albeit reluctantly, it has been suggested to us that this is because they are hoping to attract recruits and of course, it is usually militants who do their recruiting.

INJURY TO ONE, INJURY TO ALL

A campaign for solidarity from other trade unionists has already begun, the Manchester dockers have staged one day token strikes. Other dockers and miners workers throughout the country have pledged support.

This campaign must have the support of the whole trade union movement. It is not just a matter of wages alone, diabolical in itself, but of bad working conditions, long and unsocial hours with heavy responsibility, quasi military discipline, below par wage rates with agency nurses with whom they share the same work, private patients, bad training and pitiful allowances for students, ad infinitum.

It is in our own interests to ensure that the nurses fair and just demands are met, this would go a long way towards raising the sliding hospital standards and ending the malpractice of private patients.

For too long now nurses have been looked on as sort of angels of mercy but who has mercy on the angels? certainly not Enoch Powell according to him they do not need wages, "as they have excellent marriage prospects". Normally it is not our practice to quote idiots in our columns but this idiot was previously Minister of Health.

Nurses can't afford to leave themselves in the hands of maverick politicians, careerist union leaders.

The best insurance against raw deals like this is union power in the hands of the rank and file.



PORTUGAL

After 48 years of fascist oppression in Portugal, we are glad to announce that the M.L.P. is still alive and fighting back against the opportunists of the Portuguese Communist Party (pro Moscow) and their front organisation in the trade union movement - A INTERSIND ICAL - who are insidiously working in the newly freed portuguese Unions, in order to regiment the Portuguese working class into Party line of class collaboration with the capitalist friends of Gen. Spiniela.

We appeal to all comrades in this country and overseas to support ideologically and materially our anarcho-syndicalist friends in Portugal and help them to rebuild the C.G.T. (Confederação Geral do Trabalho) and print a daily paper A BATALHA (The Battle).

Books, free copies of journals and magazines on anarchism, personal visits and money will be very much appreciated.

Please forward all you can spare to:
MOVIMENTO LIBERTÁRIO PORTUGUÊS
RUA ANGELINA VIDAL 17 - 2^o- Esquerdo
LISBOA 1 - PORTUGAL.



brittany

In the town of Lorient, which is in Brittany, Northern France. Motor mechanics who work for the six main garages in the town have been on strike for 11 weeks over a pay dispute. The strikers are asking for an extra 1.20 francs (12p) per hour, but their employers are only prepared to give them 40 centimes (4p) per hour, which the men are not prepared to accept.

Now they have set up on their own and have been doing repairs and washing vehicles. They have been doing this as a free service, but they have had a collection box which motorists have put in whatever they can, to help the strikers and their families. Up to yet the motorists who are benefiting greatly from this service have donated £2.000. What the motor mechanics want to try and do now is to raise £4.000 and find more suitable premises and set up on their own. With the success they have had in Lorient mechanics in 2 other nearby towns Vannes and Auray are to try and set up there own garages.

review

LUMPEN POWER

THE LUMP:
AN HERETICAL ANALYSIS. By Dave Lamb.

In the first half of this 'Solidarity' pamphlet, the author does a good hatchet job on the attitudes of the union bosses, employers and politicians toward the lump method of employment within the construction industry,

PROTEST

He points out that their objections are primarily directed against tax-evasion fiddles and looser management control over the work-force which the lump entails. He also throws a hefty brick or two in the direction of Labour and Communist party militants as well as outside left groups such as I.S. and I.M.G. all of whom he lumps together and accuses of mindless sloganizing in the name of the great revolutionary party brands x, y and z. The author himself insists that the emancipation of the working class is the task of the working class itself.

THE PAST

The pamphlet also brings out the part played by the 1970 agreement, negotiated by the now defunct N.F.B.T.O. who hailed it as a great victory at the time, in breaking down site organisation. Although the agreement brought basic rates up to nearly £20 per week, it also signed away traditional craft rights and brought in group bonuses as opposed to the site bonus system which had been the rule up to that time. Group bonus brought to an end collective site bargaining and set one group of workers against another in a mad scramble for the easier and therefore better paid tasks. It can be said that the ending of collective site bonus set the scene for what has become one of the worst

features of the lump, inter-group rivalry. Gone the old spirit of 'want a hand pal' days. Since then it has been 'fuck off you can't use our mixer, cement etc'.

One factor which the analysis omits is the part which the introduction of S.E.T. played in the widespread furtherance of the lump system.

OBJECTIONS AND PRAISE

In the itemised analysis of objections to the lump, the pamphlet comes out with some very curious arguments to justify its preference (disguised) for the system. One that leaves me dizzy is that because Lumpers work within a Capitalist system, they are not responsible for the quality of their work. Do we all have to accept a poor pint of beer or a badly tailored suit for example, just because they are produced under the capitalist system?

It is when he comes to safety that the author surpasses himself. Because the Lumper works with mates of his own choosing. The work rhythms that they develop, their awareness of each others work methods, enables them to develop a safety consciousness, so that a case could be made out for Lumpers contributing toward a reduction in the number of accidents. This opinion will be heartily endorsed by those building workers walking home (if they are lucky) with a lump on their heads caused by a scaffold clip blithely thrown, well away from his own workmates of course, by a piece-work scaffolder.

The figures presented by the pamphlet in the section on accidents are misleading. In the period quoted there was a sharp reduction in the number of people employed in the building industry. During the last 2 years both the number and percentage of accidents in the industry has increased, including fatalities.

JUSTIFICATION

The final section presents the Lumper as a hard working chap in control of his own destiny who can do 8 hours work in 5, and if when he develops the screws or his hands begin to tremble, he will be told straight from the shoulder by his own workmates, Hard luck lad, it comes to all of us, and the old boss class would have done just the same. What a load of crap.

If a Lumper has time off, whether through sickness, accident or just booze His workmates will grab his share of the loot and share it out amongst themselves gleefully, and if he falls behind in his work, be he 71 or 21, out he goes.

The pamphlet points out that the Lump, or piece work is nothing new. What is new is the attitude of the people who operate it.

We know from records that the miners and navvies of yesteryear looked after their own in good times and in bad. The people who operate the Lump in the construction industry look after themselves. If they could take time off from their money grabbing to coin a motto, it would be 'I'm all right, fuck you Jack'. If they were able to build up an ideology to justify their existence, the title would be 'LUMPEN'



SEX

Because sex is put in an absurd moral strait-jacket for economic motives previously mentioned men and women become mentally and emotionally disturbed. And in consequence we find on the one hand a pathological desire of some to become tyrants and on the other a mass of servile beings projecting the father figure complex in our institutions. No wonder than many of our workmates, no wonder most of us in all walks of life have some kind of neuroses. No wonder that many of us are disturbed and look to leaders. Healthy and strong minded people need no leaders, they lead themselves.

When we begin to grow out of our mental adolescence and give our institutions some examination we shall overcome just as primitive man did. When we understand the forces of our own creation no longer shall they dominate. As was once said, "the philosophers have merely interpreted the world, it is our job to change it". And change it we can by forgetting about leaders and so called experts, whether they be politicians, economists or what have you. Take a look around and examine a little instead of gaping at things and saying but somebody must tell me what to do.

The 'experts' talk and talk and write about our problems and offer cures for our ills. Cures which are really amusing the more they are preached. Inflation is in all their tips at the present. A new government now holds the reigns but still we hear the same old pronouncements. We are told that inflation occurs when too much money is chasing after too few goods. That it happens when pressure of demand on our resources overstrains the economic machine, that the less near we come to full capacity the less severe inflation will be, that a degree of unemployment is necessary or an extension of controls or in some cases both of these conditionings.

The theory behind this antidote for inflationary pimples on society's posterior is that on the one hand employers will be in a stronger position to resist wage demands whilst on the other they will be reluctant to increase prices if costs rise since demand will be less buoyant (due to unemployment or the threat of it which will encourage people to save rather than spend). There is also the contingency that the threat of dismissal by some means or other, perhaps even a pruning through productivity deals and the already existing dole queue

will act as an incentive to increased productivity, that is increased output per worker not necessarily increased total output. To the 'layman' who may protest that as he views it, the prosperity of the nation is determined by how much is produced individually and collectively utilising our technical resources in the most rational manner, the reply from our experts might be that it is regrettable that output may have to be controlled so that we don't produce as much as we could. 'Yes, it is most unfortunate', they may say, "when you think about the lost output, but you can't get this lost output without serving out incomes to the people who produce it. They will then spend the incomes pushing the economy back into overstrain". In effect what these 'experts' are saying is, "the material prosperity much spoken of can never be anything but a temporary and passing phase in our topsy-turvy society. There must be at all times a section of our society living in want, subsisting on the dole of social security.

WHY

Why? Are we really expected to swallow hook line and sinker that the material health of the nation is dependent on the reduced spending capacity of a section of the people? Such an argument only makes 'sense' when one sees the army of unemployed as a threat to higher wages and better working conditions and as an incentive 'through fear of the dole' to increased productivity. For then it will be possible to pay wages and the cost of living. The rich will continue to get rich and the worker will continue to struggle. Its a fallacy that the class struggle is over as some political quacks would have us believe.

A minority of workers are engaged in socially useful work so to say that the economy of the country will be healthier by reducing those workers rather than the parasitical growth which feeds off them may make 'sense' to professional economists and the apologists of the financial system but to any normal human not already brain-washed it is sheer lunacy. When the bulk of the workers get their brain cobwebs blown off they should start shouting from the housetops that the experts are wrong. But to think 'aloud' is not enough. One must act. You'll get all the 'free' speech you want so long as you don't act upon it. In any case 'free' speech given is something which can be taken away. What does it matter? if free speech is given to sheep, they only bleat. Real men and women must take their freedom by taking hold of their heritage, by reclaiming the means of production and distribution. Free access to material existence is the basis of all other freedoms, lead yourselves to this conclusion.

Cont, from page 1

The largest single number of squatters take over properties which have been compulsorily purchased by the local authority for future developments roads etc, which may be planned for up to 10 years hence. In most cases the local authorities cut off essential services, gas, water, electricity etc, often they also rip up floor boards and board up doors and windows, but people are so desperate for shelter that they break in and squat even in these squalid circumstances. A lot of these properties could, and should be put back in a reasonable state of repair by the local councils to ease the housing shortage instead of lying empty and derelict for years until the powers-that-be decide to use the space.

The Heath government threw £100 million of public money into the coffers of the building societies as their method of solving the housing problem. This action did not produce one more house, it merely helped to boost the already rocketing prices of houses and land and all of it eventually ended up in the pockets of money-lenders and speculators.

The Labour government has already made £200 million available to local authorities for the purpose of buying up unsold new private housing at market prices and are apparently prepared to lay out £500 million more all public money, to pull the building societies and spec-builders chestnuts out of the fire for them.

We should insist that all this money, and more if needed should be used to build good quality council housing on compulsorily purchased land by a direct-labour force spec-houses just save the pockets of a few builders and land speculators.

Homelessness is the largest single problem that faces ordinary people in this country. It should not be a matter for speculation and profit. W. Allen.

FREEDOM The Anarchist Weekly Paper
Published by Freedom Press,
84b. Whitechapel High Street,
London. E.1.
Subscription Rates 1 year £3.25
6 months 1.62½.

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NAME _____

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8

Our Aims and Principles

THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION seeks to establish a free society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of man by man. The SWF therefore advocates common ownership and workers' control of land, industry and all means of production and distribution on the basis of voluntary co-operation. In such a society, the wage system, finance and money shall be abolished and goods produced and distributed not for profit, but according to human needs.

THE STATE: The State, in all its forms, embodying authority and privilege, is the enemy of the workers and cannot exist in a free, classless society. The SWF does not therefore hope to use the State to achieve a free society; it does not seek to obtain seats in the Cabinet or in Parliament. It aims at the abolition of the State. It actively opposes all war and militarism.

CLASS STRUGGLE: The interests of the working class and those of the ruling class are directly opposed. The SWF is based on the inevitable day-to-day struggle of the workers against those who own and control the means of production and distribution, and will continue the struggle until common ownership and workers' control are achieved.

DIRECT ACTION: Victory in the fight against class domination can be achieved only by the direct action and solidarity of the workers themselves. The SWF rejects all Parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the class struggle into paths of class collaboration.

ORGANISATION: To achieve a free, classless society the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by syndicalist industrial unions. As an immediate step to that end, the SWF aids the formation of workers committees in all factories, mines, offices, shipyards, mills and other places of work and their development into syndicates, federated nationally. Such syndicates will be under direct rank and file control, with all delegates subject to immediate recall.

INTERNATIONALISM: The SWF as a section of the International Working Men's Association, stands firm for international working class solidarity.



PUBLISHED BY THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION.
PRINTED BY MOSS SIDE PRESS, MANCHESTER.

Direct action

For workers' direct
control of industry

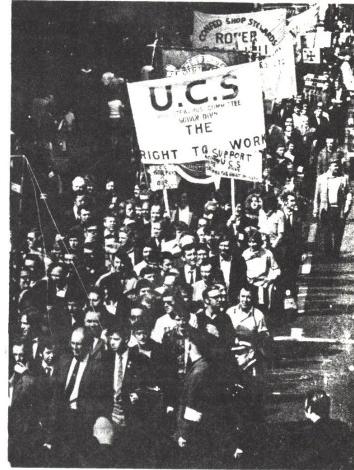
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PAPER OF THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION (IWMA)

WORKERS CONTROL OR

CONTROLLING THE WORKERS



CONTROLLING THE WORKERS.

The occasional bankruptcy, supposed to be so necessary to the survival of Capitalism has become a regular flow and is causing strange attitudes to appear among our ruling classes.

Nationalisation and workers control, terms previously aired only at demonstrations and back street pub meetings are now the daily property of the posh papers, T.U.C. leaders and politicians of all hues. While all these parrotters give much different meaning to the terms, they nevertheless share the same aim, to get British Capitalism working again.

PSEUDO WORKERS CONTROL

To Anarcho-Syndicalists the situation is clear: Workers control can not function successfully under capitalism, whether industry is nationalised or not.

When Tory leaders speak out vehemently against nationalisation they do not include their own 'lame ducks'. While having no objections to millions of pounds of public money being used to bail out their own failures yet they squeal like stuck pigs at any suggestion that they should share the loot from

their more successfull brigandry. Tory thinking on workers control is limited to the acceptance of a couple of 'Tame' worker-directors on their 'boards'.

It should be noted that Heath's government had no qualms about introducing land nationalisation legislation which would facilitate the flow of oil money into the coffers of the big companies.

The Liberals while opposed to nationalisation, mouth wordily over their version of workers control, hedging it about with restrictive 'Checks and balances'. To them workers control is the thorn with which to prick the workers into producing more wealth, but not of course for themselves.

The Labour party, which is increasingly gearing itself to large scale nationalisation as the only cure for the sickness of British capitalism, views workers control as a method of improving both management efficiency and labour discipline. The permanent officials of the trade union movement are seen by Labour as suitable to carry out these tasks. The hierarchy of the T.U.C. is of course in full agreement with the idea, while the trade union rank and file and their elected representatives have, as usual not been consulted.

Cont. on back page...

ON THE BUSES



The notice was posted on the union board of the Lakeview Garage that because of the behaviour of the doorman of the Hillside Working Men's Club towards Brother Mark Phillips the 3/865 of the TGW would no longer hold their meetings within that club. It was a simple and straightforward statement and when the rumours and the gossip had finally reached the canteen we knew that the doorman had stopped brother Phillips when he entered the Hillside Club to attend the weekly branch meeting and rudely and brusquely told him that he could not go into the members bar to buy a drink but only attend the meeting in the upstairs room.

RACISM

Brother Phillips is coloured and it was said that while the white brothers walked in only he was stopped and that no other white brother had ever been stopped from topping up at the club bar member or not. There was a great upsurge of liberal sentiment among the liberal minority within the garage for withdrawal from the Hillside Club was no mean sacrifice by the union branch for the club was used for social occasions and after union business there was the pleasant boozing at the bar.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

It is true that the meetings of the 3/865 Lakeview Garage union branch had had more than its share of physical violence with doors being kicked in punch ups during or after union meetings and the police van waiting to

carry off the dissident minority of one when Brother Johnson tall blond and ready with the fists carried his disagreement with the policy of the local union branch beyond the polemic to the physical confrontation but brother Johnson had been barred from the club therefore the union branch meetings and peace was the order of the day until the affair of Brother Mark Phillips appeared upon the notice board.

RUMOURS

There were stories and there were rumours but the matter would have become old history and a new meeting place for the weekly union meetings would have been found plus a new drinking bar except that a new mind shattering notice appear on the official union board within the garage stating that To all Members; 2 Special Meetings Have been Called within the Garage at 10.30 a.m and 19.30 p.m to hear allegations made by Brother Mark Phillips against the local union representative John Wallace and the local union secretary Edward Carter that these two union officials had been responsible for a deliberate suppression of facts in the matter of Brother Mark Phillips even to the edge of deliberate fraud and that the Area Secretary of the TGW would be in attendance to act as judge when the rank and file had pronounced its verdict.

PETTY GRUDGES

It would be idle to deny that a great wave of happiness went through the garage at the appearance of this notice of 2 Special Meetings for if the American public can wallow in delight at the misery of Nixon and the British readership enjoy the public agony of Nauding and Shore then why should we be denied the pleasure of openly gloating over the destruction of our own mini-establishment. This surely is the nature of the beast that if anyone accepts any form of public responsibility then they must do it in the sure knowledge that whatever the outcome there are those who will seek to destroy them. Throughout the history of the trade union movement runs this poisonous vein of self destruction in that any militant who places himself on the line carries his own enemies within his own ranks and the foul history of the employer's black list has always operated in the knowledge of the ultimate betrayal of the leadership therefore it must be brave and dedicated man or woman who will take over the responsibility of the industrial battle when in doing so he will become a marked man or woman and his/her own livelihood will be placed in jeopardy, therefore in the isolated industrial communities the rank and file cannot demand a christ if they are prepared to play judas. But for the record Brothers Wallace and Carter are neither Christs or Joe Hills but two mediocre men doing small time bureaucratic jobs in one of Britain's thousands of union branches. Brother Carter collects the union dues and keeps the branch records and Brother Wallace represents the rank and file in the matter of managerial

discipline collections for the wreaths for the dead presentation socials for workers put out at 65 to grass at the local Labour Exchange and in general a maid of all works or industrial factotum which despite the ravings of the Right wing sever press is the general role of the industrial shop steward. They are elected into union office for no other reason than they wish for the job and out of two to three hundred workers less than half a dozen stand for the election and in the boring daily grind of working class life they do their job well and for that we must forgive them their small peccadilloes but and it is the nature of the beast among every indifferent group of workers there is one Iago one worker aware of his/her own incompetency to win or hold office who will find pleasure in destroying his/her chain of command. They have nothing constructive to offer in return simply a fulfilment of their own sterile erotic pleasure in destroying the gods of their own creation.

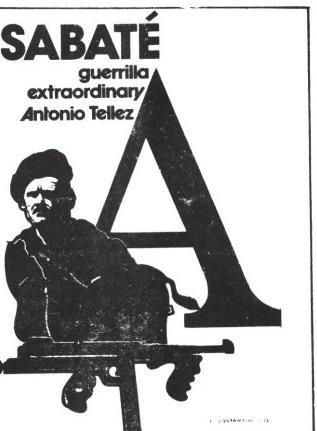
NIXON SYNDROME

This surely is the Nixon syndrome when the creatures of the political Right join with the 'crusading Left' in an act of mutual nihilism when only the Right can win for we play the Nibelungen to their neurotic Siegfrieds and the end result wounding of the workers union. And so we assembled in the 'loaned' union room within the garage to hear Brother Philip's charges against Brothers Wallace and Carter. It was 10.30 a.m and the room is small. At the long table sat the Area Union Secretary a middle aged managerial type the chairman a short stocky faced Irish man Brothers Wallace and Carter and Janet Lane the only woman member of the union committee. She is over middle age grey haired and competent in her minor accepted tasks and she is seated at the table to keep in long-hand the record of the meeting.

HATCHET MEN

There are now about 20 within the union room and there they sit the hatchet men waiting for their revenge for past quarrels Smith soon to stand as a defeated Tory candidate in the coming local boro' election Johnson tall and blond and brooding in the corner for it is said that he has especially come from hospital to attend this meeting from which he cannot now be barred and the soft voices of the three or four southern Irish arguing principle over pragmatism. The meeting is called to order and declared open and Sister Janet Lane records the time and Brother Mark Phillips rises to speak. He is of medium height slim and dark brown good looking and he wears his transport uniform with an air of sharp grace and tailored dignity in contrast to most of us who turn every uniform into a sorry mess within a week of wearing. Brother Phillips stands there and the room goes quiet and he begins by stating that this meeting is called to pass a vote of no confidence in Brothers Wallace and Carter and my hand is up on a point of order for no such indication was given when the meeting was called and then the questions were asked of who had the authority to call 2 Special meetings and how will they be paid for lost wages have to be met out of the local union funds. But it was all brushed aside and the hatchet men and Brother Johnson sat in silence. Brother Mark Phillips continued his case (and for the record I have altered all the names and Mark Phillips was a Freudian slip) and from his file he produced a thick wad of papers. His case as I followed it was that he had been publicly humiliated by the door man of the Hillside Working Men's Club

Cont. on page 7.



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Tax-dodgers and other patriots

Colonel David Stirling, the man who founded the Special Air Services who founded the Special Air Services and GCHQ, says that the private army he is now busy organising must be based on "pure, objective patriotism".

Like the ones who live on the tax dodgers haven Jersey? One Patriot is Mr. Geoffrey Edwards, the millionaire and former arms dealer who owns the £500,000 Noirmont Manor. Since moving into his new house, he has spent well in excess of £100,000 on it and its grounds 40 acres.

Edwards made his money out of arms deals. This merchant of death sold 150 millions of pounds of military aircraft to the reactionary Saudi Arabia regime, other 'patriots' associated with Stirling, co-directors of Watchguard, E.R. Morin and R.H. Cristin, also resident in Jersey. Cristin was a director of about half the companies registered in Jersey.

In 1970 Stirling was approached to organise a prison escape in Libya, however this plan was scuttled by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs Anthony Royle when he heard about the scheme.

As can be clearly seen these patriots have experience of armies both private and official. They should stick to tax evasion like all good 'Patriots'.

Meriden Dilemma.

The Meriden Motor-cycle workers Co-operative has got off to a shaky start due to Government aid, but N.V.T. boss Dennis Poore has them over a barrel. The present agreement, which is going to give Poore the largest part of the government hand out, limits the Meriden workers to a two year production of an outdated model, after which the 'Norton' franchise reverts to N.V.T.

After this period the co-operative will face the choice of becoming outworkers to N.V.T. in competition against their directly employed workers or else they will have to develop their own product and market it in competition not only with N.V.T. but also against its Japanese, German and Italian rivals.

This second alternative will force the Meriden workers to take on a highly paid design and sales-promotion staff. Up to now the co-operative workers are confident that they can surmount these difficulties.



I.P.D. workers Raise the Flag.

The swiftness with which the Kirkby workers locked the gates at their factory after the owner ratted, showed that their previous struggle against Fisher-Bendix had left lasting results.

The present situation at the Kirkby work-in is that during an experimental six-week period, the whole work force will work a reduced week rather than suffer mass redundancy.

The long term position of the I.P.D. workers is that they have a highly trained work force at all levels from shop floor to top management and they don't see why they should be dispersed to suit the greedy whim of a property speculator.



Syndicalist Struggle

At the present time it is very fashionable to think of revolution in terms of insurrection, or guerrilla warfare.

However we can criticise this point of view on a number of different levels. Firstly since the ending of conscription, workers are untrained in the use of weapons, whereas the State has a whole armoury of death and bodies of specially trained men at its disposal.

While we cannot say that the revolution will be non-violent, we can ensure by the proper use of syndicalist tactics that the violence is kept to a minimum. We don't want a whole generation of the working class wiped out which is what happened during the Russian Revolution. We want them to live to enjoy life when people control their own society.

War is destructive of life and property.

Cont. on page 8.

good work strike

"The 'good work' strike is a general term which means that workers provide consumers with better service or products than the employer intended. An example would be if shop workers consistently under-charged and gave over-weight. Or if workers building working class flats put the best quality craftsmanship even into the most shoddy materials. Obviously there are numerous occasions when the good work strike is not a serious proposition, but it could certainly be used more often than it is, for instance if car workers took the companies' hypocritical appeals for 'more quality' seriously, it would be interesting to see managerial reactions when they got 'more quality' than they bargained for. One good side-effect of the good work strike is that it places the onus of stopping a service on the employer."

This is the best reply we know to the 'wildcat' comment that they find our attitude to 'shoddy work' puzzling in our review of the Solidarity pamphlet "The Lump, an heretical analysis", see Direct Action No.2.

The working class should see to it that their fellow workers receive only the best in the way of goods and services. Long live the Good Work Strike!

The quote is from the Solidarity pamphlet 'Strategy for Industrial Struggle' No. 37.

ARE YOU PREPARED?



3

In the news media lately there has been a lot of talk about Wilson's organisation formed by General Walker. The way they see this organisation running is like an army. You have a General Staff, Regional Controllers, Local Controllers and the peasants who obey the rest of them. To join this organisation you have to be security vetted. Now it just so happens that the big men behind this organisation are nearly all ex intelligence or ex special branch men and one wonders if behind the scenes, maybe there are not all ex members but also current intelligence and special branch men. Because if they are going to vet everybody who joins this organisation they must have current access to police and special branch files. The thing that worries me about this organisation is that it is not political. The National Front except for a small minority believe in going through the political process, so they have to have a large proportion of the people behind them to achieve their objective which I don't see them doing. Although it may seem that I am just dismissing the National Front as meaningless I'm not, what I'm getting at is that the Left can beat them on the streets at meetings etc. But this organisation of Walkers is more or less a secret militia. You won't see or hear about them until they appear on the streets armed ready to smash the working class. In fact it has a ring of the Brazilian secret police who got rid of the criminal element by just bumping them off and they saw this as a way of solving their criminal problem.

Unison seems to think that the country is about to fall under the threat of the left. They say they are preparing themselves for the breakdown of law and order. Then they will step in and destroy anyone who they think has left tendencies and save the nation. Now we have seen around the world what has happened in situations like this where you have a fanatic right militia. They usually start things themselves by committing atrocities and then blaming the left, when they think public opinion is angered they move in, with all this intelligence at their disposal what is to stop them from gathering all the names and addresses of people of the left. And then create a situation whereby law and order breaks down for a week and go round and wipe out the left, and after that as far as they were concerned that would solve their problems.

But if this happened could the left survive, I reckon not, I think that the left should see the dangers of this organisation and the minority of the National Frontiersmen. I think it's time that workers started to prepare themselves for this situation, we are arriving at the time in the very near future that the early morning knock, won't be the police on a raid. But right wing extremists out to get rid of you. PREPARE YOURSELVES NOW, ORGANISE AGAINST THIS THREAT AND BE READY TO DESTROY THEM BEFORE THEY DESTROY YOU. J.Boanet.

health: a question of control

" sick to death of 'em "

The privileged treatment of private patients within the rational Health Service, and the very deep rooted antagonism felt amongst hospital workers' has finally come to a head.

Nurses and paramedical staff are at least showing their disgust at this exploitative and unjust system, which while making vast amounts of money for consultants and the government has reduced medical treatment into a monetary transaction with those who can pay receiving priority and better treatment over the less fortunate, i.e. N.H.S. patients.

Clearly this is all but a reflection of the capitalist society which we live in and despite Labours attempt to remedy the situation within the N.H.S. by 'Phasing Out', as it calls, private practice this will not change one iota the politics and economics of the Health Service. For those who have the cash will still obtain (or purchase) the best treatment be it from overseas or from a more sophisticated and specialised private health service which many consultants would like to see in operation.

The most interesting thing, in our opinion, which has evolved since the Charing Cross dispute over Private patients is the reactions of the press and politicians to the direct action and self initiative shown by hospital workers.

Mr. Wilson in a speech to the commons stated that Private Practice must be....." ended by the parliamentary process and he regretted any attempts outside that process to carry through a policy, no matter how desirable". (Quoted Times).

Harold, true to his colours, like all politicians sees the danger in an assertive and militant working class, taking things into it's own and not working within the framework of legality (no matter how desirable for politicians) to reach a 'compromise position'. which in reality amounts to nothing in terms of achievement. what the politicians really want is the retention of privilege and not it's abolition, for if by some miracle it was achieved through parliament - GOVERNMENT WOULD BE REDUNDANT.

The 'Observer' (that so-called Liberal paper) also expressed fears of the possibility that the Health Service row.... "will be settled by the use or threat of force - as the miners dispute was settled last winter and the Protestant workers dispute since then".

Naturally the capitalist press like our politicians sees the danger in this form of rank and file activity which could result, if its potential were fully exploited, in the final abolition of capitalism and it's replacement by a society under Workers Control. It is only within the context of control that the whole health service row can be viewed.

The Trade Union Autocracy has left it's sour taste on yet another situation. With it's present policy concerned with appeasing the government and working within the framework of the 'Social Contact' it is certain that the inequality and abuse made within the Health Service will not be ended.....AT LEAST NOT BY THESE METHODS.

For hospital workers to effectively change the privileged and feudalistic system of the Health Service what is basically needed is above all control of their unions and places of work, and only then can medicine really be of a service to the community.

P.B. & T.H.
(Hospital Workers).



Medical students demonstrate their opposition to inequalities in the health service with a march along the very heart of wealthy consultancy practices — London's Harley Street.



WORLD NEWS

germany

GERMAN POLICE MURDERS.

The Merseyside campaign to shorten the working week has been given new impetus by the Dunlop 'Speke' workers decision to strike every Monday until the management give way and abolish the detested Friday night shift.

Meanwhile the transmission shop at Ford's Halewood plant continue to boycott the Friday night turnout altogether. If the Ford management come round to seeing the lads point. They might save a bob or two as overheads.

The Mersey Dockers are standing firm against the 'Docks and Harbour Board' management in the grain dispute. Briefly, the management want a labour force of less than 150 men working a 35 hour week basic on a two shift basis. The men are standing firm for a 3 shift system of six hours making a basic 30 hour week to be shared by all the 4,500 dockers in turn, thus cutting the working week and sharing the better jobs.

During the month of June in west Germany, as a result of police action against workers demonstrations, three workers died and one 17 year old suffered such appalling brain damage from a water-cannon that he is likely to be insane for life. In each case the medical and judicial authorities whitewashed the police involved. The incidence of German police brutality during demonstrations is increasing.

These 4 workers suffered because they stood up and protested against state encroachment of their freedom. Our German comrades are raising a fund for the dependants of one of the 4 dead; Gunther Routhier. Donations please to; Rote Hilfe, 5 Köln 1 Moltke Str. 27 West Germany.

IRELAND

HARLAND AND WOLFF TAKEOVER.

The announcement by the Minister of State for Northern Ireland that a Nationalised Harland and Wolff shipbuilding yard will be operated with worker participation in management offers the Protestant workers an opportunity for a working agreement with the Catholic community.

In the past, discrimination against Catholics entering the skilled shipbuilding trades was blatant. To build up a skilled workforce for future requirements, Harland and Wolff are embarking on a large scale apprentice training scheme. It is to be hoped that those workers entering the management will insist that apprentices are drawn equally from both communities. Decisions such as this could well build a base for future peace in Northern Ireland.

IRISH EXPERIMENT IN WORKER MANAGEMENT.

A N.Ireland unemployed workers training scheme has unintentionally brought another example of worker participation into being.

The scheme involved small groups of unemployed workers being taught basic engineering skills, allotted to a ready equipped factory and offered as a package deal to prospective employers.

The second of these plants was set up in Dungannon, where the 12 workers involved, took control themselves and now have all the work they can handle manufacturing conveyor belt components.

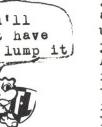
They have set up their own company 'Millmark Engineering'. All the 12 are directors and all receive equal pay.

FREEDOM The Anarchist Weekly Paper
Published by Freedom Press,
84b. Whitechapel High Street,
London. E.1.
Subscription Rates 1 year £3.25.
6 months £1.62½.



'Direct Action' invites readers to write letters for publication.

LETTER



Dear Comrades,

After reading your review of Dave Lambs "The Lump" an heretical analysis pamphlet, I bought a copy. Over the past few months there have appeared in the Libertarian press many letters and articles for and against the Lump. I for one have been pissed off with watching the ping pong ball being bashed to and fro across the table, mainly because most of the articles were of a theoretical nature, and Dave Lamb's pamphlet to me was in the same semantic vein.

I would like to put over my practical experiences with the Lump: I do not work in the building trade, but I work in a kindred trade, the timber trade. In 1970 I was working at Parker Rossers Ltd (Trafford Park) Manchester. The factory was formally Frank Rosser, a family concern. At the time of the takeover by Parkers (Ancoats), the two unions that were the official negotiating bodies for the factory were the A.S.W. and the L.B.P.C.G.W. (a decentralised local union), were both invited to merge with the U.G.A.T.T. As is well known the A.S.W. did, but the members of the L.B.P.C.G.W. elected to stay independent.

After the takeover by Parkers (Ancoats) the management started bringing in Lump workers to work the new operations that the company were venturing in (pre-constructed floors and roof trusses, for the new type, thrown together houses).

The first things that the workers learnt about the Lumpers was that they earned money far in excess of what we were receiving. The reasons for this were apparent:

- i) They worked far harder than we did.
- 2) They had few, or no tea breaks.
- 3) They continually refused to co-operate with us, by using machinery that we were blacking because we considered these machines to be unsafe, and subsequently dangerous to the operators.
- 4) They got their money paid in full, in their hands each Friday. They were expected to declare their own tax, but as they boasted to us, they hadn't paid a penny tax in years.

The men of both Unions demanded to the management that they should also work the operation that the Lumpers were working, with there being a boom in such operations at the time the management readily agreed. The management offered to pay our Union rate plus £2 bonus for every floor made (The Lumpers were getting a straight £5 per floor). As you can imagine there was a cut throat scramble to get onto the floor jobs.

However the majority of the men seeing that it was only going to be a few who could get onto the floor jobs, called a meeting where it was carried by vote that all the bonus earned by the men on the floors would be pooled, and snared out amongst the full shop. And to make matters fair it was voted that each man took his turn on the floors, working as two men teams along side the Lumpers, for two weeks each. An ideal situation, or so it seemed.

But as we put it into operation the trouble began to start. The Lumpers working alongside the Union men were getting the cream of the materials on hand. They had their materials brought right up to the job for them, filling all the available space, whilst we had to continually walk up and down the timber yard for the materials we needed. Also the Lumpers were getting snide ideas across to the Union men as they worked alongside them. "You're fools earning money for the others. You want to line your own pockets like us". This foul propaganda got across to several men, especially those who could do the job faster. Bitterness crept in. Everybody was slowly getting at each others throats. "Fucking Hell, we made twice as many floors last week as those on 'em now", and so on.

It got to such a point that a group of the faster workers got together and approached the management offering to break from the Union and work the job between them and the Lumpers. It took threats on behalf of the other men to disrupt the Case-making side of the factory if the management were to agree to such a proposal. The issue was finally settled by the management, when they proposed an individual bonus system throughout the factory. A thing which our Union has been against for all time, and which the majority in the shop have always been against. But with the poison propaganda of the Lumpers the management's proposal was narrowly accepted in a full shop vote.

From there things went from bad to worse. The wage differential grew alarmingly. Some men were taking home £50 per week, and some were taking home only £30. And it wasn't just sour grapes on my part as I was earning well over the average.

Things were getting worse in other aspects of the job. Petty jealousies were springing up all over the place, "He always gets the cream of the work". Fewer machines were getting blacked. The safety standards were down to level par with the 19th century. Anybody who complained to the management about a machine being faulty was just laughed at.

It got to such a state that the few Socialists amongst us were finding it hell to go to work. We had little alternative but to leave.

That is why I went along with the rest of the Stewards, recommending a strike on May day 1973 in support of Heffer's "Anti-Lump bill", at Lynton Caravans, and that is why the Rank and File of the L.B.P.C.G.W. demand that it remains Union policy to keep Lumpers out of the shops that we work in.

Back to the Dave Lamb pamphlet. Although not agreeing with it in full I found it interesting and provocative. It is also a very well laid out and an attractively printed pamphlet. (A sad lack in much of the Libertarian literature of today).

Trying to be totally objective (as usual) I can only agree that there must be many more practical experiences of working with Lumpers (both for and against), other than my own described above. But surely to say empirically, Lumpers are any more revolutionary than the bureaucrats of UCATT, or for that matter the Trad Left, is just playing about with words, which to me in the final analysis is all the pamphlet is. The pamphlet can in no way be looked upon as a blueprint for Direct Action to change the system that represses the majority living under it. In fact I find it in parts exactly the other way. On page 8 in thirty words he makes the 1972 series of strikes which won for us a 50% rise in basic rates (in the face of Government legislation at that) look like a defeat. I cannot believe that Comrade Lamb is so naive as not to know the difference between basic rates and bonus earnings, and the revolutionary implications of both. Therefore can only wonder what kind of a SOCIALIST is he?

To me the gains of the 1972 strikes, in an industry that is only 30% organised, were victories on a par with the last two miners strikes. (Or were they defeats for the working Class too Comrade?) And it would seem to me more logical for active revolutionaries in the building industries to build upon the "Spirit of the Spires" in that battle, than to waste their time trying to organise the "Cowboys" of the Lump.

M. Rowe.

LITERATURE

- Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution. by G.P. Maximoff 1945-1951
- Lenin and Workers Control 10p.
- The Hungarian Workers Revolution 5p.
- The pamphlet "Workers Control" is being reprinted.
- Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism by R. Rocker 20p.
- A.B.C. of Anarchism by A. Berkman 25p.
- Floodgates of Anarchy Christie & Meltzer 35p.
- Franco's Prisoner M. Garcia. £2.25.
- My Social Credo G.P. Maximoff 20p.
- Revolutionary Government Kropotkin 5p.
- Anarchism in the May Movement in France. 6p.

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WHAT THEY MADE OUT OF YOU...

THE five largest employers in the UK made the following profits per worker in the 1971/72 financial year.

	Net Profits before Interest and Tax	Profits per Employee
EM		
General Electric Co.	92	£436.02
British Leyland Motor Corporation	52	£272.48
Imperial Chemical Ind.	211	£1,060.30
Courtaulds	86	£537.50
Grand Metropolitan	61	£265.63

WILDCAT published monthly at 15p and includes a four-page supplement. Subscriptions £2.50p. a year. Box 999, 197, Kings Cross Road, London WC1 OI 278 9308.

BLACK FLAG organ of the Anarchist Black Cross. 10p. from: Black Flag. 83a. Haverstock Hill, London N.W.3.

LETTER

Cont. from Page 2.

I think W. Allen missed a good opportunity to put forward a fruitful line of workers' "direct action" in his interesting piece about speculators and squatters.

Talking about homes left empty by councils in development areas he says "In most cases the local authorities cut off essential services, gas, water, electricity, etc., often they rip up floorboards and board up doors and windows..." and smashing up the lavatory and sink is another favourite.

But the point is the local authorities do not do this. They order our fellow workers to do it for them.

Where workers' direct action could help with this would be for council workers to organise in a mass refusal to take part.

I think there have been recent isolated instances where workers have agreed this is a job they shouldn't be doing but to be effective it has to be country-wide.

The Trades Council in Lambeth discussed this recently. As a First act they suggested to Lambeth Council that it wasn't a good idea to destroy potential homes.

Lambeth, it should be noted, has the worst housing problem in England. The reply was that the chairman of the Housing Committee who gave the impression that he personally hated every one of the homeless had apparently taken a strong line that this destruction should take place.

But a reshuffle of council committees meant that he had been replaced by the more usual hypocrite who has promised that the Labour council will stop the practice.

Of course, in London we have a fair idea of what these promises mean. The Greater London Council made the same promise earlier this year. And yet a few weeks ago one of "their" houses in this area was pretty well gutted. And they're pissing themselves to pull down other nearby places using what seem to be private contractors before the homeless can get into them.

That, you see, is the logic of a "Housing" Department. If it leaves a house empty too long a family will try to solve its own housing problem by moving in. So don't leave it empty - pull it down you can't squat in a hole in the ground.

So, the obvious thing seems to be - the power of our fellow workers to work, or in this case not to work.

Organisation should be through the trade union branches of the local authority workers concerned, asking members of NUPE and the Transport & General in particular to discuss the matter, perhaps even trying to get squatters invited to their meetings to ask for support.

In many cases we ought to remember that local authority workers among the lowest paid in the country - are often the very people forced into squatting to get a home.

I don't think any of us deludes ourselves that squatting is the answer, none of us has any reason to feel grateful for sub-standard housing even if we do get it at a fair rent (no rent!). But it is something to be going on with for today until we can really get down to solving the problem in the only realistic way.

Best Wishes.
H. Harmer.

but he said he had no quarrel with them for they were at liberty to choose their own membership and one now looked askew at Brother Phillips but that the local branch through their officers had refused to challenge his humiliation through the union channels. It was not true he said that because of the open racial policy of the Hillside Club the local 3/669 had withdrawn from that club but they had been evicted by the club because of previous violence and other factors and that in committee Brothers Wallace and Carter had told false statements to the members and the area office. It was all solid anti-climax and the 'crime' was one of any organisation lumbered with a complaint that they believed would die a natural death if they left it alone.

SELF ELECTED MARTYRDOM

Brother Phillips was a man determined to suffer for a cause and one's natural sympathy drained away when he began to read page after page of correspondence and read from a detailed typewritten statement from the very first day of his self elected martyrdom in his brush with the stupid doorman of the Hillside Club. And it was all there page after page and Brother Phillips insisted on reading it in full even to the letter headings. He had written to Jack Jones the Race Relations Board London Transport the national press and every letter and answer was read out in full and held up to prove that they were true and honest copies even to the press cutting and as the hours drifted by one lost whatever interest one ever had. The voice flowed on and on Sister Janet Lane continued to fill page after page of long hand notes. At 12.30 p.m. there was a knock on the door and an official pressed his head in to state that Brother Phillips should now be signing on to start work for LT but Brother Phillips stated he was staying with his case and after a brief conference the union stated they would pay Brother Phillips wages for his last day's work. It was at this point that the meeting began to break into a mob as Brothers Wallace and Carter argued their side of the accusations for the weak chairman now let the hatchetmen take over and the meeting became a rabble. Brother Phillips had begun with a simple case of racial discrimination and as a fellow worker one automatically gave him support but one felt called upon to reject him for one simple and basic reason in that he was not prepared to return that same loyalty to his fellow workers. He had a personal cause and he was prepared to destroy his fellow workers working class organisation to win a small victory. Two points made me reject him and they were when he stated that the Working Mens Club had a right to choose their own membership even in the matter of colour and this comrade they do not have and that from the very first day of a small and minor squabble he immediately began to keep a file and when that happens who can trust who. Brother Phillips had every right to keep a record of his manufactured case but his loyalty to his fellow workers demand that at every stage he kept them informed and this he did not do and now we assembled in this overcrowded union room to bear witness to his attempt to destroy two small time union officials. At one midday Sister Janet Lane fell from her chair in a dead faint amid the roar of the enclosed rabble and the meeting was halted while she was revived and still it ground on with Brothers Wallace and Carter at bay defending themselves on matters they had long forgotten. At 2.30 p.m. the morning meeting closed in a mood of mutual hatred and bitterness.

NO CONFIDENCE

7

At 19.30 p.m. there was a second meeting but all were exhausted to continue the fight and on a show of hands Brother Wallace was 'found not guilty' by the knowledge of the fact that he relied on Brother Carter for his information and a vote of 'no confidence' was passed in relation to Brother Carter. For the uninitiated a vote of 'no confidence' means nothing for in parliamentary terms it is no more than withdrawing the Party whips for Brothers Wallace and Carter still remain in office. This meeting was important in that it was a microcosm of so many other meetings throughout the world in which men have been destroyed for a political end. In that room in Lakeview Garage we saw acted out all those awful meetings in Stalin's Russia when workers vote for the death of political opponents of those in power. All those ghastly aged photographs of pop eyed workers raising their hands for the death of wreckers and traitors was repeated in Lakesides small union room. The man who will

join everything the Company demand or there is no job, but will not join the union and in doing so becomes the darling of the Right wing sewer press is used for political ends to destroy the organised working class the liberal crying from his middle class professional 'closed shop' ivory tower for the proletariat to operate an open shop has little knowledge of the jungle of industrial warfare and the need for a united front the statesman-like union official always ready to give an ear to the employer and the Minister but never the militants the political boys ever ready to engineer a strike for political ends and then to walk away from the defeated wreckage are the enemies of the organised proletariat just as much as the State police and when Brother Mark Phillips for the best and noblest of reasons began to keep his private file on his private cause and then to use it to break the petty administration of a small local union he did no more and let us be charitable and say than give another weapon into the ready hands of those whose declared object is to break the organised proletariat for comrades and brothers and sisters remember the jargon of the pseudo religion of the couch and do not indulge in the pleasure of a Samsonian complex for like Samson in destroying the temple you destroy not only yourself but the temple and the temple is the organised might of the united proletariat.

Arthur Moyse

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Our Aims and Principles

But the capitalists care only for their profits and not for the producers, who they butcher when it suits their purpose to do so.

However, by using direct action in the sphere of industry we can use their own property against them. Our method would be to occupy the factories, offices, railways, transport depots and run them.

Syndicalism does not mean romantic nihilism, but constructive work.

We believe that the Social General Strike is the method by which the boss class can best be unseated and power wrested from their hands.

This General Strike would be a general lockout of the busses, already we have seen workers occupy shipyards and factories, to gain limited demands.

Why not go a stage further, and take over the means of production and run it to satisfy human needs, instead of letting them have it back when they've agreed to exploit us again.

The key to the power of the capitalists is their domination of production we must break this hold and we have the means to do it in our hands.

Conference

A one day conference on anarcho-syndicalism will be held in Manchester on Saturday 28th. of September.

Syndicalists and sympathisers in the North of England are invited to write for details to J. Moorhouse (Sec SWF) Manchester. c/o Grassroots, 178, Oxford Road, Manchester 13. Tel. 061, 442 0434.

CONTROLLING THE WORKERS; Cont. from front page.

The Syndicalist Workers' Federation, says that workers Control can have meaning only when the workers own their plants, carry out managerial functions themselves and have complete control over the distribution of their products.

In this process the working class will also evolve their own educational and other social institutions, housing, health, distributive services. In plain words Society will be managed by workers for the workers who, by that time will be the total population.

Meanwhile the struggle goes on and a bending capitalism is being forced into allowing mixed worker/capitalist production, which is giving workers experience in self-management and from which valuable lessons can be learnt.

THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION seeks to establish a free society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of man by man. The SWF therefore advocates common ownership and workers' control of land, industry and all means of production and distribution on the basis of voluntary co-operation. In such a society, the wage system, finance and money shall be abolished and goods produced and distributed not for profit, but according to human needs.

THE STATE: The State, in all its forms, embodying authority and privilege, is the enemy of the workers and cannot exist in a free, classless society. The SWF does not therefore hope to use the State to achieve a free society; it does not seek to obtain seats in the Cabinet or in Parliament. It aims at the abolition of the State. It actively opposes all war and militarism.

CLASS STRUGGLE: The interests of the working class and those of the ruling class are directly opposed. The SWF is based on the inevitable day-to-day struggle of the workers against those who own and control the means of production and distribution, and will continue the struggle until common ownership and workers' control are achieved.

DIRECT ACTION: Victory in the fight against class domination can be achieved only by the direct action and solidarity of the workers themselves. The SWP rejects all Parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the class struggle into paths of class collaboration.

ORGANISATION: To achieve a free, classless society the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by syndicalist industrial unions. As an immediate step to that end, the SWF aids the formation of workers committees in all factories, mines, offices, shipyards, mills and other places of work and their development into syndicates, federated nationally. Such syndicates will be under direct rank and file control, with all delegates subject to immediate recall.

INTERNATIONALISM: The SWF as a section of the International Working Men's Association, stands firm for international working class solidarity.

* * *

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PUBLISHED BY THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS
FEDERATION.
PRINTED BY MOSS SIDE PRESS MANCHESTER

Direct Action

For workers' direct control of industry

no 4

5p

PAPER OF THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION (IWA)

SOLD OUT?

BACK IN BUSINESS.

'You will have to work like you've never worked before'. That's how works convenor Jack Spriggs broke the news to his fellow Fisher-Bendix/I.P.D ex-workers that their 'Workers Co-operative' had been granted a £3.9 million loan by the government.

From now on the Kirkby workers will be responsible for their own future instead of being sitting ducks for shake-down merchants as they, and thousands of other work force have been and still are.

Fisher-Bendix floated into Kirkby on a wave of Grants and tax relief. As soon as they had skimmed off the cream of these concessions Fisher-Bendix moved on to the second stage of industrial looting, asset-stripping. It was only the prompt action of Spriggs and the other stewards in putting a lock and guard on the stock and stores which put the kybosh on that trick.

When fairy godmother Harold King of I.P.D. arrived on the scene, incidentally also with a Government grant, all seemed well again. After all a washing machine works just as well and a bottle of pop tastes the same whether you change the brand name or not. However all was not well, as soon as Harold King ate up his first grant and was refused another, he went off in a huff to his Bermuda properties along with his employees holiday pay.

After this further sellout the Kirkby work force were determined not to be done in the eye again. Up went the flag and they carried on working. For themselves. Obviously it is not going to be all plain sailing. They are going to have to take responsibility for market outlets, raw materials, wage structures etc, being Merseysiders they'll have a good shot at it.



Under New Management

TRIUMPH FOR WHOM?

The Meriden Workers Co-operative are in for a tricky ride with Norton-Villiers-Triumph chief Dennis Poore. Under the recently negotiated agreement N.V.T. will get the lions share of £5 million which the Government has allocated to the Co-operative. The Meriden workers are also to hand over to Poore the re-structured 'Bonneville' models and spares which they had been holding. N.V.T. has also pressurised the Government into allocating them £8 million export credits.

The latest development is that the West Bromwich ex B.S.A. workers who are to produce N.V.T.'s future models under the 'Triumpn' mark are protesting that the Meriden Co-operative is operating in unfair competition to them. One wouldn't have to search far to find out who put this idea to the West Brom workers. It seems certain that when the minimum terms of the settlement have been met that N.V.T. will rat on the rest. It will then be up to the Meriden workers to show what they can really do. Financiers may make wizard fiddlers but they have never made a motor bike.

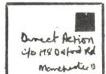
JUSTICE?

2

This, has been proved so often in the past, has to be done by the working class themselves. Only by mobilising working class support on a scale we witnessed during the jailing of the dockers two years ago will we secure the release of our current victims. They are victims because they fought the good fight against the capitalist system of exploitation. We should not forget them but seek and struggle for their early release.

P. Turner.

letter



Comrades,

A well attended meeting was convened in Manchester on the 8th November by the Manchester and Salford Trades Council to discuss how to release Eric Tomlinson and Dennis Warren from the savage re-imprisonment to which the appeal court committed them.

It was decided initially to support the National lobby in London on November 20th. Most of the floor speakers were emphatic in speaking out for a general stoppage until these two victims of a capitalist conspiracy were released.

After Warren and Tomlinson are free the campaign should not cease but should become the spearhead to bring about the abolition of the 1875 Conspiracy Act which has become a blanket weapon against working class struggle.

W. Allin U.C.A.T.T.

PRESS FUND

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GOOD NEWS "A Batalha" the paper of the old General Confederation of Labour, and now the organ of the Portuguese Libertarian Movement has reappeared. The first issue was published in September in Lisbon. The paper will appear fortnightly at first.

"A Batalha" reaffirms its faith in Anarcho-Syndicalism, and we, comrades of the Syndicalist Workers Federation, British section of the A.I.T./I.W.A. salute their reappearance after so many decades of repression.

AS WE WERE SAYING.

'A Batalha', which already has a circulation of 55.000 copies, believes that an autonomous and free industrial union movement is needed in Portugal in order to combat the reformist ideas of the Intersindical which is under the influence of the Communist Party.

The C.P. is opposing all wildcat and political strikes, occupations etc, which could endanger the chances of the party doing well during the free elections in 1975.

'A Batalha' intends to fight for the rebuilding of the G.G.T. (General Confederation of Labour) which will pursue the class struggle at all levels to its conclusion. The smashing of Capitalism and the State, then the Syndicalist network of workers organisations would produce goods to satisfy the needs of the people according to their needs and administer a stateless, free and egalitarian society, in short Libertarian Communism.

Anarcho-Syndicalism has had a long revolutionary tradition in the Iberian Peninsula before the takeovers of Salazar and Franco.

We believe that our Portuguese comrades who are emerging from the long silence imposed by Fascism will play an important role in reviving the Syndicalist movement in the world at large, and we must join them in their call for the oppressed of the world to a Social Revolution.

Those comrades in Britain who want to support this revolutionary paper can send money, books, pamphlets, news, articles, etc. to

A Batalha, Rua Angeline Vidal 17-2-E
Lisboa 1, Portugal.



Prices

ITALY

Most workers will be very concerned about rocketing prices and roaring inflation. Britain isn't the only country suffering from shrinking purchasing power. The Italian working class also has been hard hit by rising prices. Perhaps the action of some Italian workers will strike a chord over here.

Workers in Milan have been taking over supermarkets and occupying the check-out points for about thirty minutes and charging shoppers half price for their purchases.

On leaving the supermarket, one of the price-strikers hands over the cash from 'sales' to the manager saying that they are honest workers. This part of a civil disobedience campaign which includes refusing to pay increases in bus fares. This action in some cases has caused the bus companies to suspend the fare increases. In Rome there is also a campaign to urge people to pay only half their electricity bills.

If enough families take this action, the electricity board will be unable to cut off the electricity from thousands of homes.

This type of action, of course, has a long and respectable history. George Rude in his book "The Crowd in History" reports that similar tactics were used at markets in France just before the French Revolution, then as now the crowd sold the goods at a "fair price" and gave the proceeds to the traders.

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HOUSING

One family in five in Britain needs re-housing. Some of them live in century old Terraced housing with leaking roofs, damp walls, outside toilets and no hot water or bathroom. Others lead a dreary existence in multi-occupied - a posh term for over-crowded Victorian Mansions in revolting and unsanitary conditions. Yet more people, especially young married couples, double up with their parents while they desperately scrimp and scrape to save the deposit necessary to take out a mortgage on a home of their own. Needless to say these are all working people.

Meanwhile fifty thousand new houses lie empty throughout the country. Building workers are being laid off, brickworks are closing down. All this because property speculators, they come in many guises, Estate agents, Housing Associations, Building Societies etc, allowed their greed to run away with them.

Over the last five years the price of living accommodation has almost doubled whilst the price of land for building has risen astronomically. Lord Goodman, Chairman of the "Housing Corporation" said in his Dimbleby Lecture "by what imbecility do they (government) allow land once valued at fifty pounds to rise to fifty thousand pounds just because someone has wrangled planning permission". Lord Goodman also pointed out that this country has a plethora of planning regulations, and that if they had been properly applied over the years, the whole of the population could have been decently re-housed.

Instead we have had to suffer cramped, barrack like working class housing in our cities and on rubbish dumps of industrial estates, while at the same time thousands of acres of good arable countryside are being despoiled by the myriads of individual rabbit hutches thrown up by the spec-builder, of which young married couples may obtain a

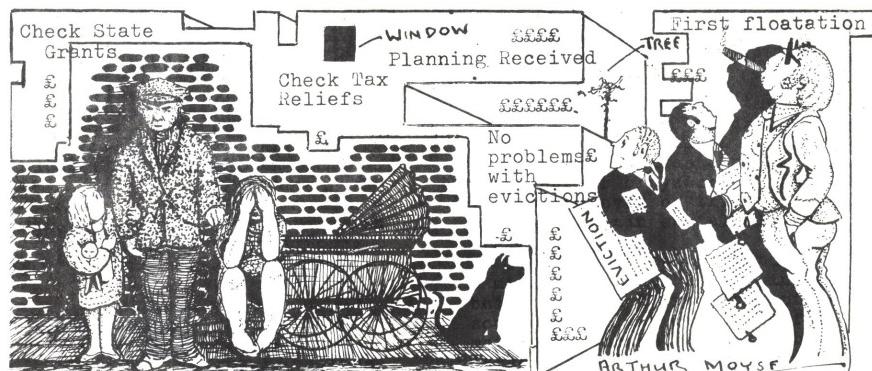
front door key only if they mortgage the whole of their future. Very often mortgages are obtained on the understanding that wives continue working for a number of years. No doubt Keith Joseph approves of this as a way of keeping certain social classes from breeding.

It is estimated that there are about a million houses, in varying condition, being allowed to remain empty and rot, some are on land scheduled for road and motorway schemes, some are bought up by large property speculators who hang on to empty houses waiting to make a killing in areas where liberal Tenants Associations work like beavers to obtain preservation orders. Areas like this eventually become trendy 'villages' and if any working class survive in them it is because they are domestically useful to the new residents.

More and more of the homeless, both families and single people have been driven through desperation into squatting as the only way to obtain some sort of roof over their heads. This type of squatting is often connived at by local housing departments and social workers as a way out of their responsibilities for homelessness. All too often this form of squatting degenerates into shuffling between one draughty, dirty, leaking, bug-ridden hole and another and does nothing toward solving the problems of homelessness, it just sweeps it into rat-infested cellars.

When Council or private property developers (including charity based Housing Associations) want possession of 'squats' they can obtain a court possession order in a day and can, and do, literally pull the property down around the ears of the homeless concerned who then have to trudge around until they find another shit-hole to shelter them for a while.

"IF WE CAN'T GET THE LAW TO SHIFT THEM WE COULD INCORPORATE THEM INTO THE BUILDING!"





Islington, London Council would appear to be more concerned in destroying homes, than in rehousing people. Susan Williams a crippled, unmarried mother rents a 2 roomed flat from the Council which although it is in a development area is not due to be demolished until next March. However the demolition firm involved had other ideas and Susan recently underwent the terrifying experience of being awakened by a shattering of glass as demolition workers climbed into the house and began tearing up the floorboards in their search for loot, even after Susan made her presence known the workmen pulled the door off the only toilet in the house, dismissing her with a sneer as 'squatter'.

It is no wonder that, with the increase of incidents such as the above that London housing policy is acquiring a 'Rachmanite' taint.

THE REMEDY - THEIRS.

Anthony Crossland, Minister of the Environment deserves the gold-plated cough drop for his classic solution to the housing problem: Build smaller houses. So much for the wisdom of our rulers.

The attitude of the Building societies was predictable as their spokesman put it at a luncheon paid for by the mortgagees; "all that is needed is money".

The spokesman for the National Federation of Building Trade Employers stated that if only local authorities would stop using Direct works building departments to build council housing and give the contracts to private enterprise instead then all would be well, more houses could be built for less money and not only would everyone have decent housing, but there would be a saving on the rates as well. We are offering this whiz kid to Heath as a future Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Greater London Council have published an ambitious plan which sets out to provide decent housing for all Londoners by 1988. This paper has been given a lot of publicity and praise. It does indeed set out the problem squarely. One important factor is the increasing number of older council housing that have deteriorated and are in need of refurbishing. In London there are over 200,000 of these new slums and it is an increasing problem in every major city in Britain. In Moss Side Manchester recently, members of the local Tenants associations occupied a newly built council house in order to draw attention to living conditions in nearby flats which, although only 5 to 8 years old are infested with mice, bed-bugs and lice. Local Tory papers tried to blame the situation on the way local people lived, even citing thrown away

workmens sandwiches as a cause of infestation.

The truth is that the trouble stems from over 10 years ago when this part of Manchester was pulled down piece-meal by 'Lump' demolition merchants who after grabbing and disposing of all saleable items, part burnt and then levelled off all remaining items, with the result that a lot of infested bedding and furniture was tipped into the old cellar areas and have become breeding grounds from which the new buildings are infested. The same conditions pertain in new dwellings which are still being erected in the area.

It is becoming obvious that in the cities of Britain at least, housing programmes are not even keeping pace with maintenance needs, and that new council housing, even at the recently accelerated pace is nowhere near large enough to fill the need for homes.

THE REMEDY - OURS AND YOURS.

All homes built in this country produce several forms of profit. First there is the astronomical profit on building land. Then comes the planners profit, Architects, Surveyors etc. There is profit on building materials and the profit of the building firms. The sum total of all these profits however is only a fraction of the profit which is made out of the interest charges on mortgages and Government loans. Over a 30 year repayment period these come to more than 3 times the original cost of building.

Society must radically change its attitude toward Housing before any solution to the problems can come about. As a first step housing the population must be accepted as a social necessity and not primarily as a source of income and profit as it is treated today.

Public Housing must cease to be an exercise in cramming as many people as possible into the smallest area. It must be made to be seen for what it is the most formative factor on the lives of the generation growing up. How many housing estates today have enough hospitals (if any), schools, clinics etc? How many have decent entertainment facilities apart from the dreary and ubiquitous 'pub' (again a huge source of profits)?

Not until these defects are remedied will be on our way to a decent society and they will not be handed to us on a plate by our present masters.

Not until working people are organised strongly enough both where they work and where they live will they be able to demand their birthright. To this end we must organise, NOW!

SEEN through SYNDICALIST

GLASSES

"Nationalisation" according to most Labour politicians and trade union officials is still the panacea for all our economic and social ills. This is still being advocated in spite of the fact that for a quarter of a century now we have had nationalisation in several of our major industries. The workers have still had to strike or threaten strike action as their fellow workers in the private sector of industry in order to better or safeguard their living standards.

We are being told that the nationalisation program of the Labour government must be implemented if we are to survive economic chaos caused by private enterprise. We were told that the working class must give full support in order to secure a Labour government in the general election with a large working majority. The apologists for Labour declare that the minority government had been obstructed from implementing its policies by the Tories, Liberals and Nationalists and despite this the government had done a great deal, rents had been frozen, old age pensions increased, food subsidies introduced. In the next breath so to speak they refer to the "unjust" wage restraint in the face of rising prices caused by the conservative government. The apologists conveniently forget the wage restraints of previous Labour governments. They also try to deceive with references to food subsidies, frozen rents, price controls etc. This recalls the time when the Attlee Labour government with an overwhelming majority introduced wage restraint (with the approval of the Trade Union Congress) food subsidies, housing subsidies and rent restrictions. After the Attlee government went out of office the late Richard Crossman M.P. made an admission that ever since 1945 the British trade unionists could have enjoyed a far higher wage packet if his leaders had followed the American example and extorted the highest possible price for labour on a free market. Instead of doing so, however, they exercised extreme wage restraint. This they justified by pointing out to the worker the benefits he enjoyed under a "Welfare State", food prices kept artificially low by subsidies, rents kept low by housing subsidies, rent restrictions and in addition the Health Service.

Interesting as Crossman's remarks may be it is recorded that in 1947 until the end of the Labour government

in October 1951 the retail price and rent index rose by 29% whilst the wage rate index lagged behind with an increase of only 22%.

The Conservative government which succeeded had also a period of wage restraint and the next Labour government with Harold Wilson at the helm followed the same pattern. Governments come and go but the familiar economic crises and stumbling blocks created by capitalism remain.

Neither majority government by any political party or nationalisation can solve the problems of the mass of the people. Nationalisation is not intrinsic to socialism as some people may think. This in fact is a dangerous fallacy. Bismarck in the nineteenth century Germany advocated municipal gas, water works and railway nationalisation. The Tories in this country nationalised the post office and telegraphs. The port of London Authority quoted by Labourites as an example of Socialism was formed by a government under the guidance of Lloyd George. The industries which were nationalised under the Earl Attlee Labour government remained nationalised under the succeeding Tory government. Both Conservatives and Labourites support nationalisation, depending on circumstances, time and place.

Many workers of different shades of political opinion are having some introspection at present. Their own observation and experience of traditional political parties are leading them to think a little further on "what is to be done"? They are beginning to realize that somehow there is something radically wrong in their organisational set ups. Some feel they have been let down by their leaderships which is only a half truth.

Social democratic parties endeavour to change the face of society by gradual reforms within the framework of capitalism and its institutions. They are therefore doomed to failure. They inevitably become conditioned and corrupted by the very system they try to change. The political power which they try to conquer actually conquers them for political power is really based on economic power and this power essentially remains in the hands of the capitalist class. Those who control economic and industrial power control all.

CCCC

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SCOTLAND

Striking It Rich.

The recent upsurge in working class militancy in Scotland has resulted in the current outbreak of strikes, which for the most part are being settled in the workers favour.

The success of the Scottish workers is of the utmost importance to the future of working class struggle in Britain. It ranks with the sweeping victory of the refuse workers a few years ago.

Since the end of the first world war British capitalism has treated Scotland as a source for the following: cheap raw materials, cheap labour, as a site for cheaply run subsidiaries of large concerns, and as a repository for high skilled mobile labour. All of this was highly profitable for British capitalism but did no good for Scotland or Scottish folk. A reactionary aristocracy and a brutal police force have worked hand in hand to maintain the status quo.

Recent events have completely upset this system. For one thing the cost of living could not be kept low enough for the tame union bosses to keep the workers noses down. Also the influx of non-scottish oil workers has strained the service industries and shown them to be inadequate, especially housing. The shortage of houses has led to an outcry for the importation of skilled labour in the same areas which for generations have had to watch the best of their young folk drift away to the wens of England and other countries.

The mounting discontent under these and other impositions produced rumbles among the more organised sections of workers notably the Aero and Motor engineers. However it was the Haulage workers strike which triggered off the country wide eruption. Scotlands transport drivers the life-line of the whole economy have for years worked arduously long hours in every possible condition at a ridiculous wage level.

It is to be hoped that in the aftermath of the struggle will be forged a strong workers rank and file organisation tied neither, to the myths and parapria of nationalism nor to the tame lions of the scottish t.u.c. Workers interests lie far beyond the confines of boundaries and flags.

W. Allin.

THE COST

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The annual report of the Government's Chief Factory Inspector should make comforting reading to those citizens who have been anxiously watching the share index drop week by week. The Industrial accident figures have kept well up to average. In one or two industries they have even increased.

The Construction industry as usual is way out ahead, with other heavy task industries, steel, shipbuilding, mines etc, well in the running. Disclosures were made that Byssinosis is increasing. This disease has been choking cotton workers mostly women, to death in Lancashire since the industrial revolution.

The report has a word or two of comfort for chemical workers. Britain has just suffered its first known fatality from angiosarcoma (liver cancer) caused by working in the manufacture of 'vinyl chloride' which is used mainly for producing p.v.c. This unfortunate worker had been working with vinyl-chloride for 20 years before symptoms of the disease appeared, and the experts point out that no safe level of monitoring can be achieved.

Don Norry, North Derby organizer of the Municipal and General Workers Union is urging the government to speed up legislation to ease the plight of workers in the plastics industry who have contracted a crippling bone disease.

The reported 'small leak' at Dounreay Atomic Reactor highlights the report published in the U.S. journal Science. This states that casual workers (they can be skilled or unskilled) are commonly used on cleansing operations at Atomic Plants which subject them to high radiation bombardment. The point is made that there is a high turnover of such labour, and that often safety training is inadequate or else casual labour is often lackadaisical in carrying out safety measures.

The same conditions prevail in Britain. The official attitude is that it is both wasteful and unnecessary to 'burn out' (that is submit to a brief high exposure rate so that he has to be taken off radiation work for weeks or months) a registered radiation worker when outsiders can be brought in for 'one-off' exposures. Nothing is said about the consequences for the casual workers.

The one set of figures in the report which are positive are that the factory inspectorate are to be increased, probably to keep pace with the numbers of victims of industrial greed.

Cont. from page 6.

else and politicians become puppets on a string. However, the idea of alternative methods of struggle and forms of organisation are beginning to permeate the industrial workers.

The various governments throughout the world have demonstrated how not to achieve emancipation from the yoke of wage slavery.

In their awakening we hope the working class will soon see clearly that their strength lies in organising at the point of production. That is where they are robbed of the fruits of their Labour and that there is the place to remedy their plight.

Over 100 years ago Karl Marx in an address to the General Council of the International Working Mens Association stated: 'Trades Unions work well as centres of resistance against the encroachments of capital. They fail particularly from an injudicious use of their power. They fail generally from limiting themselves to a guerilla war against the effects of the existing system instead of simultaneously trying to change it, instead of using their organised forces as a lever for the final emancipation of the working class, that is to say, the ultimate abolition of the wages system'.

("Wages, Price and Profit" K. Marx.) (Last page, last paragraph). What else was Marx saying, but that the unions should develop from defensive organs to offensive ones, Syndicalists hope the industrial workers will now take this sound advice.

R. Lynn.

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution.
by G.P. Maximoff

How Labour Governed 1945-1951

Lenin and Workers Control. 25p.

The Hungarian Workers Revolution 5p.
The pamphlet "Workers Control" is
being reprinted.

Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism
by R.Rocker 20p.

A.B.C. of Anarchism
by A.Berkman 25p.

Floodgates of Anarchy
Christie & Meltzer 35p.

Franco's Prisoner
M. Garcia. £2.25.

My Social Credo.
G.P. Maximoff 20p.

Revolutionary Government.
Kropotkin 5p.

The Social General Strike,
by Tom Brown, is being
reprinted orders from
Manchester S.W.F. Group.

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letter

I thought M. Rowes and W. Allins criticisms of Dave Lambs lump pamphlet in recent issues very good. Though a lot of Lambs critique of the union were quite valid U.C.A.T.T. like a lot of other unions, is largely a defensive set up so that when there is a boom on, the market leaves it a way behind.

Workers in this system have to sell their labour to the highest bidder so the lump must attract many workers who obviously want to make the money while its there.

But, the boss usually wants his pound of flesh so like M. Rowe points out speed ups and an all round deterioration in conditions takes place.

For Lamb to suggest that the lump in itself might be an alternative to the union is nonsense.

There is no alternative to organisation even if Lamb suggested something like a lump cooperative for instance it might have been excusable. There is no power without organisation the alternative is to be left to the whim of the employer and with the building boom at an end, it could be a hard winter on building sites.

Unions don't always affect things directly an example of is the notorious anti-union printers D.C. Thompson in Dundee, this firm always pays above the union rate, but every time the union negotiates a rise they pay out a corresponding rise but I couldn't see them paying out any increases otherwise.

Likewise the U.C.A.T.T. sets the minimum rate and the lump has to pay above this to attract labour away from the Union. If after a building boom there is no union to go back too, building workers would be in real trouble, perhaps a wage cut spiral.

The way out as I see it is to win back rank and file control and initiative.

This is where the strength is, where its all won or lost. Workers have to know rights without power are just privileges which can be withdrawn when no longer convenient, real rights require power to back them up, the union has potential the lump has nothing. The only good boss is a dead one.

yours sincerely
A.R. Ipswich.



PUBLISHED BY THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS
FEDERATION.
PRINTED BY MOSS SIDE PRESS, MANCHESTER.